SINGERS IN SWEDEN VOLUME THREE RUBINI GV33.

IVAR ANDRESEN (1896-1940).

Ivar Andresen was born in Norway, and made his vocal studies with the eminent teacher Gillis W Bratt in Stockholm. He made his debut at the Royal Opera House in Stockholm as the Landgrave in Tannhauser in 1919. He sang in Stockholm until 1924, when he was awarded a contract with the Dresden Opera. This contract lasted for nine years, and it was during this period that he became oneof the foremost Wagnerian basses. From 1927-36 he appeared at every Beyreuth Festival. Dresden shared him with the Berlin City Opera, but in 1934 he became a member of the Berlin State Opera. During his career he made many guest appearances, Covent Garden, Vienna, New York Met, Madrid, Hamburg, Munich etc.

EINAR LARSON (1897-)

From 1923-26 he studied with John Forsell, and then made further study at the Royal Opera School in Stockholm in 1925 and 1926. He was engaged by the Royal Opera Stockholm in 1926, and remained there until 1951. During his first season he sang Valentin in Faust, Fanuel in Nerone and Wolfram in Tannhauser. During 1933 he studied further in Germany, and in 1935 went to Milan.

The peak of his career was during the 30's, where he was highly thought off. The critics were unanimous in their praise of his beautiful lyrical baritone. He had several Verdi roles at his command, Iago in Otello, Rene in Un ballo in Maschera, Rigoletto, and Amonasro in Aida.

KERSTIN THORBORG (1896-1970)

After study at the Stockholm Royal Opera School, she made her debut at the Royal Opera in 1924 as Ortrud in Lohengrin. She stayed here until 1930, before embarking on an International cereer. In 1928 she appeared in a gala performance of Zandonai's I Cavalieri di Ekebu. In this performance her fellow artists were Brita Hertzberg, and Einar Beyron. (It is indeed fortunate that all three artists recorded excerpts from this work, and these recordings will feature on a later Volume of the Rubini Singers in Sweden Series.)

Thorborg appeared in Prague 1930-32, Berlin City Opera 1933-5, and in 1935 was engaged by the Vienna State Opera. She remained here until the German invasion, and left Austria to go to America, where began her long association with the Metropolitan Opera. This was to last until she retired in 1950. During her career she made many guest appearances in London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Munich, Buenos Aires etc.

Thorborg spent the last years of her life in Stockholm, where she passed on her art to many pupils.

ADELAIDE VON SKILONDZ (1888-)

Russian by birth, Von Skilondz studied at the St Petersburg Conservatiore and made her debut at the Imperial Marinskii Opera in 1904. In 1909 at the Bolshoii Opera in Moscow she created the role of the Queen of Shemakan in The Golden Cockerel. In 1910 she was engaged by the Berlin Royal Opera to replace Frieda Hempel, and she sang there with great success until the outbreak of war in 1914. She then took up residence in Stockholm, and appeared at the Royal Opera for many years as leading coloratura soprano. In later years she taugh in Stockholm, and Kim Borg was one of her pupils.

BRITA HERTZBERG (I90I-)

Whilst still quite young, Hertzberg showed an aptitude for music, and at the age of I6 appeared as Anna in Varmlanningarne with an amateur company. This led her to study singing with Ida and Hermann Brag, in Stockholm, and with Ludwig Mantler in Berlin. She then enrolled in the Royal Opera School in Stockholm and studied there from I922-4. Her operatic debut was made at the Royal Opera in I924, and sang there this season Mimi in La Boheme, and Mignon. In I932 she married the tenor Einar Beyron.

Her roles were numerous, and during her career was one of the foremost Swedish operatic singers. Her stage craft was excellent, and her sincerity and beautiful warm and expressive soprano was highly praised. In I940 she was created Hovsangara (Court Singer).

Amongst her many fine portrayals can be counted those of The Countess in Le Nozzi di Figaro, Marianne in Cavalieri di Ekebu, Katerina Ismailova, Tosca, Tatiana, Jenufa, and on the lighter side, Rosalinde in Die Fiedermaus, Saffi in Der Zigeunerbaron, Hanna in The Merry Wodow. She also sang a number of Wagnerian roles.

Her voice and records is little known outside of Scandanavia, she made few trips abroad, she sang in Riga, Prague, and as Isolde and Sieglinde in Bologna in I947, but basically she was a Swedish singer content to sing in Sweden. If she had ventured on an international career Im sure that her voice and acting would have been enthusiastically recieved.

Brita Hertzberg now lives in retirement in Sweden.

EINAR BEYRON (I90I-)

Born in Malmo, Beyron studied with A.O. Bachner in Berlin and with John Forsell in Stockholm. His first engagement was in Goteborg in I923/4 season at the Theatre Stora, mainly in Operetta roles. In I924 he sang at the Royal Opera in Stockholm as Froh in Das Rheingold, and as Lionel in Martha. Before being given a full contract Beyron made further study at the Royal Opera School and was awarded a contract with the Royal Opera in I926. He soon became the leading tenor and sang there for over 25 years. He was created Hovsangara in I942. He made many guest appearances singing in Milano, Tristan at the La Scala, Barcelona, Prague, Budapest, Riga, Copenhagen, Oslo, and in America. He had many roles both in opera and operetta, and in later years sang many Wagnerian roles.

He was a very intelligent and versatile artist, and his excellent acting ability and handsome appearance, enabled him to sing a wide variety of roles.

JOSEF HISLOP (I884-)

Born near Edinburgh in Scotland, Hislop's employment took him to Sweden, where it was discovered he had an excellent tenor voice. He took up vocal studies with Gillis Bratt, and made his debut as Faust at the Stockholm Royal Opera in I9I5. He appeared there until I9I9, and went to Covent Garden in London where he was highly successful.

Josef Hislop now lives in retirement in Scotland, after having a long and highly distinguished career in Opera.

GERTRUD WETTERGREN (I896-)

Both her parents were singers and at the age of I5 Gertrud studied singing with Kallie Sandberg, and at the Stockholm Conservatory. Overwork caused her to loose her voice, but after four years rest she commenced her studies with Mme Capiani and with Gillis Bratt. Her debut was made at the Royal Opera in I924 as Cherubino in Le Nozzi di Figaro. For 20 years she was principal contralto at the Royal Opera. In I933/4 she made guest appearances in Vienna and Prague, and was engaged in I935 by the Metropolitan Opera in New York and made her debut as Amneris in Aida. She remained at the Met until I938. She also sang at Covent Garden in I936 and I939. During the war she sang only in Sweden and retired from the stage in I945.

She was greatly admired as Carmen, and this is her only commercial recording.